

WEATHER.
Cloudy and unsettled tonight; to-
morrow fair; moderate temperature.
Temperature for twenty-four hours
ended at 2 p.m. yesterday: Highest, 71;
at 2 p.m. yesterday: lowest, 59; at
6:30 a.m. today.
Full report on page 11.

Closing New York Stocks, Page 27.

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The Evening Star

WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1921—THIRTY-SIX PAGES.

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Yesterday's Net Circulation, 97,114
TWO CENTS.

FOCH OUTLINES WORKS FOR MODEL WORLD CITY HERE

Will Resign War Claims Body
to Head New District
Committee.

FAVORS U. S. OWNERSHIP
OF ALL BUILDINGS USED

Wants Best Power, Gas, Water
Supply, Fire and Police Depart-
ments for Lowest Tariff.

To make Washington the world
center of commerce and finance, civil-
ization, humanitarianism, education
and science is an ambition to accom-
plish which the District Commission-
ers and District residents should co-
operate in a big, broad way with
Congress, Representative Benjamin
N. Focht of Pennsylvania, the new
chairman of the House District com-
mittee, feels.

Representative Focht has a broad-
minded view of the future of Wash-
ington—is eager to take a leading
part in making all of its institutions,
schools, police and fire departments,
water, gas, electric power, and the
city itself, a model for the entire
country. He wants to have all of
the government activities housed in
magnificent government-owned build-
ings, and to arouse in every Ameri-
can's breast a yearning to visit the
city's capital as frequently as pos-
sible.

Given Up War Claims Post.
He believes that this development
should not be left to an uncertainty
of the future, but should be under-
taken at once and pushed persistently,
until the Commissioners, the resi-
dents, the school boards, the police
and fire departments, and the entire
city are united in a common purpose
to accept the chairmanship of the
District Committee.

Representative Focht has for
some time served on the District House
committee, is the ranking member, and
has been working for the District
Committee. Today in an interview at
his home, he expressed his views as
to the future of the District of
Columbia.

"That Washington shall ultimately
have the best schools, the best police,
the best fire department, the best
electricity for the least possible tariff,
and the best of everything else, is
a matter of course," he said.

"The street railway must be
reconstructed, the city must be
consolidated, and the city must be
a saving of overhead cost, following
the plan of the best cities in the
lower fare."

Immediately after the civil war
Washington made a great stride
toward paved streets and newer and
better accommodations of every descrip-
tion, but even today the city is
time second and third rate as compared
to the advances made in New York
and Philadelphia.

"Now that America controls the
finances of the world, Washington will
for all future time be the center of
the world, and the city must be
in commercial activity and the fulfillment
of the broader conception of civiliza-
tion and humanitarianism."

"The next phase in the District's
development is to make it a city
to be right before us. There is a new
and revitalized and quickened energy
here, otherwise I would not care to be
the chairman of the District Com-
mittee, for without the assurance of
co-operation from those who have
the heart and the vision to see the
city as it is, and the city as it should
be, there is no hope for advancement."

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"I am glad that President Harding
so promptly accepted the plan of the
city, and that he has placed the
city in the hands of the people, for
this is the only way to make the
city a truly better prospect than ever
before."

"The new chairman of the House
District committee, in addition to his
duties in the progress of the National
Capital, wishes to see Washington
develop into a truly better prospect
than ever before."

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GAS LAMPS IN D. C. STREETS MAY BE DONE AWAY WITH

Commissioners Favor Better Lighting in
All Sections to Prevent Crime and
Accidents.

Replacement of all street gas lamps
in the District with incandescent
lamps is the policy that probably will
be advocated by the new board of
commissioners as the most economi-
cal and effective means of increasing
illumination in Washington.

In interviews given The Star today
all three Commissioners declared
themselves in favor of better lighting
as an aid both in preventing crime
and in preventing traffic accidents.
Developed sections of the city as well
as suburban and outlying areas will
be included in whatever improvement
program may be adopted.

Public Ownership in Mind.
There is also a probability that the
Commissioners will consider the ad-
visability of the District financing the
installation of poles and cables with
the view of having the street lighting
system eventually owned by the mu-
nicipality. Engineer Commissioner
Kutz is known to have this plan in
mind.

The local government, under the law,
may erect poles and lay cables at its
own expense or it may order the Potomac
Electric Power Company to do this
work. As a matter of fact, the Potomac
Electric Power Company has been asked
to install incandescent lighting system is now
owned by the District and part by the
company. The question has arisen as to
whether the rate of return the corpora-
tion would be permitted to earn on its
investment in poles and cables would
be greater than the interest the District
would have to pay if it assumed the expense
of installing future equipment for incandescent
street lighting.

At present Washington's streets, ave-
nues and alleys are lighted by 12,235
incandescent lamps and 10,555 gas mantle
lamps. The electric lamps give a forty-

candlepower illumination, and Col. Kutz
believes that this is sufficient.

There is great need, however, all three
Commissioners agree, of increasing the
illumination afforded by the gas lamps.
There are two ways of accomplishing
this. One is to rearrange the spacing
of the poles, the other to operate two
mantles instead of one.

Favor Incandescent.
Commissioner Kutz, who exercises
supervision over the District electric
department, believes that neither
plan will be economical in the long
run, and that a better policy would be
to replace all gas lamps with incandes-
cent lamps as rapidly as possible and
provide funds for the work.

The last board of Commissioners
practically pledged itself to this policy
when, in the supplemental esti-
mates sent to the Senate for improve-
ments to be paid for out of the sur-
plus District funds in the Treasury,
it asked an appropriation of \$50,000
with which to start the replacement
of gas with electric lamps. The Sen-
ate approved the item, but it was lost
in conference.

For several years the Commission-
ers have been requesting larger ap-
propriations for street lighting than
Congress has allowed. In the fiscal
year 1921 the Commissioners asked for
\$450,000 for street lighting and got \$415,000. Last
year they requested an appropriation
of \$478,000 in addition to the \$500,000
included in the supplemental esti-
mates. The appropriation finally
authorized was \$430,000.

There is no doubt the Commission-
ers will ask for a very liberal light-
ing appropriation in the next regular
budget. In the meantime they will
make every possible use of the funds
becoming available just in time for
the coming winter. The question of
illumination is held to be a menace to
the safety of the citizens.

**Recent Drop in Price of Oil Gives
Chief Basis for Reduction**

The Public Utilities Commission will
render a decision late today, in which
the price to be charged for gas in
Washington after tomorrow will be
reduced to \$1.25 per thousand cubic
feet to private homes and other small
consumers. This rate will continue in
effect until the end of the year.

That is the rate which was in effect
prior to last November, when the
commission established the present
rate of \$1.32 per thousand cubic feet,
and would be a reduction of 7 cents
per thousand.

The reduction in the price of gas
will be the first break in utility rates
since the upward trend began three
years ago, following increased operat-
ing costs as a result of the war.
The Washington Gas Light Com-
pany, for itself and the Georgetown
company, asked for continuation of the
present rate until September.

Recent Drop in Oil.
A recent drop in the price of oil,
one of the largest items of expense
in gas manufacture, is the principal
factor in the reduction in price.

When the company was given the
rate of \$1.32 last November it was
paying 12 and 13 cents per gallon for
oil. In February, however, oil was
bought at a fraction less than 10
cents a gallon, and since that time
the company has contracted for small
quantities at 8 and 7 1/2 cents.

It has been estimated that the com-
mission in the past that since four gallons
of oil are used to a thousand cubic feet
of gas, a change of a cent in the price
of oil should make a difference of 10
cents in the price of a thousand feet
of gas.

Justified by February Price.
According to this reasoning, the
February price of approximately 10
cents a gallon, and the reduction to
the rate of \$1.25 in the price for
gas.

The commission's accounts found
that to continue the present rate on
the basis of the cost of making gas
more than a fair return on the value
of its property for the year 1921.

Will Seek New Evidence.
Immediately after the action has been
taken, Robert H. Crowe, an attorney,
announced that an attempt would be
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DROP GAS RATE OF CITY TO \$1.25

Decision to Be Made Late
Today and Be Effective
After Tomorrow.

THREE-YEAR UPWARD
UTILITY TREND BROKEN

Recent Drop in Price of Oil Gives
Chief Basis for Reduction

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STATE DROPS CASE AGAINST WHITE SOX

"Corruption of Witnesses"
Is Charged by Prosecuting
Attorney Crowe.

By the Associated Press.
CHICAGO, March 17.—The state to-
day dropped the cases against all of
the Chicago White Sox base ball players
indicted for the alleged throwing of the
1919 world's series except Chick Gandil.
The action was taken after Judge
William E. Dever had refused to grant
a continuance of more than sixty days
for the case.

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BIG TNT AT FIELD MIRACULOUSLY MISSES OTHER HIGH EXPLOSIVES

A twenty-pound can of TNT went
off with a roar in a small ware-
house filled with high explosives
and airplane bombs today at Bol-
ling Field. And the luck of the
Army, coupled with prompt and
cool action by the men hurried out
on "fire call," prevented serious
consequences.

The building is located at the
lower end of the flying field. When
the building was not blown to
splinters through the ignition and
explosion of the other bombs is
declared inexplicable. Damage was
inconsiderable, it was said.

The "fire out" call had sounded be-
fore the District fire department
equipment from Anacostia had ar-
rived. It was a matter of minutes
between the sounding of the alarm
and the arrival of apparatus.

Officials at the post complimented
fire department officers on the speedy
trip to the flying field.

A board of inquiry will meet to-
day to determine the causes of the
explosion.

Leaves Achievements.
Maj. Ridley performed excellent
service in the General Staff
Corps, he has been ordered, with about
two hundred officers of the Army, to
take a year's course of instruction
at the school of the line, at Leaven-
worth, Kan. He has been ordered
to report to the commandant of the
school September 1 next, for duty as
a student officer. In the meantime
he will be given leave of absence, the
first he will have since he took
charge of the 1st Cavalry Division at
Camp Meade, Md., September 17, 1917.

He relieved Col. William W. Harris,
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Maj. Ridley performed excellent
service in the General Staff
Corps, he has been ordered, with about
two hundred officers of the Army, to
take a year's course of instruction
at the school of the line, at Leaven-
worth, Kan. He has been ordered
to report to the commandant of the
school September 1 next, for duty as
a student officer. In the meantime
he will be given leave of absence, the
first he will have since he took
charge of the 1st Cavalry Division at
Camp Meade, Md., September 17, 1917.

He relieved Col. William W. Harris,
who was transferred to the 1st Cavalry
Division in France, and is now stationed
at Cincinnati, Ohio.

Leaves Achievements.
Maj. Ridley performed excellent
service in the General Staff
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